

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHEHALIS MAYOR
DENNIS DAWES

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Dennis Dawes of Chehalis who is retiring from Chehalis City Council at the end of this year. Our community owes Mayor Dawes our sincere gratitude; he has dedicated his professional life to public service. He began his distinguished career in the Chehalis Police Department, where he rose through the ranks to become police chief. Mayor Dawes also served six terms on the Chehalis School Board from 1983 to 2007, and even worked as a bus driver for the Centralia School District. Ever active in his community, Mayor Dawes has also volunteered as a referee in local basketball and football games. Most recently, he has spent the last sixteen years as a city councilor in Chehalis, with eight of those years in his current role as mayor.

Mayor Dawes exemplifies what it means to be a public servant and has worked diligently for decades to improve the community he loves. It is truly my honor to work with exceptional, motivated, and dedicated leaders like him. While his official public service may be coming to an end, I am confident Mayor Dawes will continue to serve his neighbors in the Chehalis community, and I wish him the best in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA COURTS HOME
RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Home Rule Act. This bill would give the Council of the District of Columbia authority over the jurisdiction and organization of the local D.C. courts. The D.C. Home Rule Act (HRA) expressly prohibits the Council from enacting any law with respect to any provision of the D.C. Code title that relates to the local D.C. courts. Congress can correct this injustice to the District's federal taxpaying residents by amending the HRA, even before the District becomes the 51st state.

Forty-eight years after passage of the HRA, matters involving the local D.C. courts almost never come to Congress, so Congress knows virtually nothing about the District's local courts—and could not care less. Notwithstanding the importance of D.C.'s local courts to District residents, the D.C. Council, which is the repository of knowledge and experience for the District's criminal and civil justice sys-

tems and the body accountable to our residents, is irresponsibly left on the sidelines while Congress remains the sole entity that may correct flaws in the District's local courts.

Under the HRA, the Council has no authority to "enact any act, resolution, or rule with respect to any provision of title 11 of the District of Columbia Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the District of Columbia courts)." Matters in title 11 are limited primarily to the rules of criminal and civil procedure, court administration, the branches of the courts, the rules of jury service and admission to the bar. Our bill would strike this limitation on the Council's authority.

The District has never had authority over its local courts, even when it was responsible for paying for their operations. Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, the federal government assumed the costs for several state-level functions, including the courts because the federal government alone has jurisdiction over the courts. This bill would not change the courts' funding. This bill also would not change the authority of the President to nominate, or the Senate to confirm, local D.C. judges, which has been within their purview since the creation of the modern local court system in 1970.

This bill is an important step to increase democratic self-government for the District. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MRS. LINDA B. CONLIN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Linda B. Conlin on the occasion of her retirement.

Linda has served the people of the United States of America in her role as a Department of the Army Civilian for over 39 years. Her long and distinguished career of service began in 1973 as a Kindergarten teacher in a small DoD school in the East-West German border kaserne of Bad Hersfeld, Germany. She finishes her career with over 25 years in the Washington, D.C. area-serving in the Army's Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, and most recently for the last 17 years as the Support Division Chief in the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison. Linda has received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service and several Superior Civilian Service Awards.

As the Co-Chair of the National Guard and Reserve Caucus, I especially want to thank her for her service with the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison.

2021 will undoubtedly go down in history as, "The Year of the National Guard." This year, the National Guard continued its mission to fight the scourge that is the COVID-19 pandemic, conducted a mobilization of 25,000

troops to defend our Capitol—the bastion of our Democracy, responded to countless natural disasters ranging from fires, to floods, to hurricanes, all while continuing to protect us from our adversaries abroad.

Throughout this tumultuous year, the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison supported my office, and all of Congress, in unprecedented ways. Linda was critical in providing this support and embodied the spirit of the Guard's motto: "Always Ready, Always There."

This country is losing a true patriot today, her loss will be noticed. As she begins her new adventures, I wish Linda and her family with nothing but health and happiness in her retirement.

SUPPORTING THE TREAT AND
REDUCE OBESITY ACT

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, the number of Americans living with obesity is reaching record levels. Today, nearly 100 million Americans are living with obesity, a complex chronic condition associated with other diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, stroke, and even cancer.

Obesity also disproportionately impacts communities of color, particularly Black and Latino adults. Nearly half (49.6 percent) of Black Americans and 44.8 percent of Latino Americans are living with obesity, compared to 42.2 percent of their white counterparts. In my district in Southern California, which is more than two-thirds Latino, rates of diabetes and obesity are among the highest in the state.

Unfortunately, outdated Medicare rules deny access to effective obesity care for millions of Americans. Despite a 2013 decision by the American Medical Association recognizing obesity as a treatable disease, Medicare still stigmatizes obesity as a choice and denies access to the full continuum of care.

This is something we can change. Right now, there is legislation—The Treat and Reduce Obesity Act—that would modernize Medicare by providing access to anti-obesity medications and intensive behavioral therapy, thus expanding care to millions of Americans.

New data shows that the American people support Congressional action to expand access to coverage for obesity treatments. 70 percent of adults surveyed in a recent Morning Consult poll conducted on behalf of the Obesity Care Advocacy Network support expanding Medicare coverage for prevention and treatment of obesity in adults.

I urge all of Congress to join me in supporting the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act to begin to address our obesity epidemic in California and across the country.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.